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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association,
Wednesday October 13, 2010, 2:15 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Rm 220.

Note. Any item marked with a ** denotes an action item.

Present: Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Michele Leroux, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair.

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Mike Hedden, Shari Mercer, Marianne Walters, Marianne Van der Wel.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joe Laposa called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded** by Al Fraser that the Council meeting minutes of September 8, 2010 be adopted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 \$10,000 out of country medical insurance policy update

Michelle has been pursuing this item with Sun Life Insurance to get a statement about this coverage to inform retirees how it can and should be used. She contacted a couple of commonly known insurers as a gauge of the information Sun Life provides, and found that Sun Life's responses were consistent with market answers. For example, both indicated that the \$10,000 could not be used to pay a deductible on their policy and that McMaster, since it is an employer plan, is by guidelines supposed to be the claim coordinator and first payer. This would mean that the \$10,000 coverage would be used to pay the first \$10,000 of a larger

expense and then the other policy would pay the rest, except that the retiree would have to pay the other policy's deductible amount. The responses of the two companies were verbal, however, so cannot be used as 'fact'.

In a recent meeting between the MURA liaison people and members of the MUFA executive this matter was addressed but nobody in MUFA knew much about the problem.

At this stage of inquiry the usefulness of the \$10,000 still has to be determined. Michele will look into this further. An additional possibility she will explore is whether the \$10,000 coverage is more useful for small expenses (i.e. under \$10,000) than for larger ones. MURA presented a formal request to Michele to investigate how many medical claims by retirees have been made against the \$10,000 policy in the past 10 years. * *

3.2 Information transmission for soon-to-be retirees

After being suspended for a few years exit interviews are again required for soon-to-be-retirees, unless they are formally refused.

It was agreed that HR and MURA should consider how to tell more people about MURA and retirement during pre-retirement workshops, and to think of other ways MURA can help active employees learn about retirement.

Of 37 retirees since June 2010, 30 accepted MURA membership and 7 refused. The 7 gave various reasons for not joining. Five were quite adamant about the decision, with one of these saying their spouse was already a member as a reason, and one retired under extenuating circumstances. Two are being followed up by HR to reconsider.

3.3 Other issues

The recent updates of the section concerning retirees on the Human Resources (HR) website was discussed. One problem arises because there is no direct link to retirees on the McMaster website. One has to click on 'Working at McMaster' and then look under Faculty/Staff to get into information for retirees.

Michele informed Council that HR is working on moving away from the 222HR (22247) phone extension number, and also is moving toward having retirees contact a specific advisor rather than a generic phone number or email address. Advisors are assigned by Faculty/University Administrative Divisions. Michele will keep us informed on this as it develops.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas/Helen Barton)

It was established in a meeting with Jenny Thompson and Karen McQuigge that the endowment that now stands at \$42,000 is sufficient to increase the Full-time

scholarship to \$1250 and the Part-time scholarship to \$350 based on present investment value accruals. These amounts commence with the 2012 awards. A motion was tabled, *that if there is a shortfall in the revenue from the endowment fund the executive can decide to top it up out the current MURA funds or to suspend the award for a particular year.* University Advancement has a “rainy day” fund that they would use, if possible, before MURA would have to use its funds in cases of revenue shortfalls.

Moved by Kathy Overholt and **seconded by** Helen Dietsche, the motion was **carried unanimously.**

4.2 Revised portfolio descriptions (Wayne Rouse)

Most of the portfolio descriptions have been updated when necessary. There are still a few liaison descriptions to complete before the updates are posted on the just-council website.

4.3 Meeting with Michele Leroux -Human Resources (Joe Laposa)

It was decided to compare the numbers in MURA’s membership data base with the numbers of retirees in the HR database to get an idea of the discrepancies that exist. No data except ID numbers and names can be used in the comparison because of privacy issues. **

4.4 President’s reception for new retirees – Council Involvement (Joe Laposa)

Joe requested that the Council welcoming committee show up at the President’s reception by 4 PM. He stressed that this was the President’s reception, not a MURA reception.

4.6 Committee changes, portfolio reassignments (Joe Laposa)

Mary Johnston and Shari Mercer are going to work together on Special Events. This will not likely get underway until the New Year.

4.7 Parking Meeting (Helen Barton)

Helen and Joe had a profitable meeting with Terry Sullivan, Head of Parking at McMaster. It is likely that permanent parking privileges will be set up for retirees without the need of annual renewal. Parking will request that HR send the names of those passing to Parking so they can deactivate the transponders. There are still a few minor issues to iron out.

4.8 McMaster Online Directory (Helen Barton)

There is currently a problem with the online directory. However, prior to that the access for retirees as spelled out in MURAnews and elsewhere was working well.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Clinical Faculty Pension Issue

Subsequent to the June meeting in which MURA took part, Roger Couldrey and Carl Moore (representing the Clinical Faculty) have agreed to meet to set an agenda for a second meeting of the group. Joe Laposa thought that this might be a suitable time for MURA to bow out of the ongoing proceedings, having apparently been successful in our stated role of bringing the parties together.

5.2 Autumn Convocation and Installation of New President

Joe Laposa by invitation will be attending the Fall Convocation dinner that celebrates award winners and honourees. This is also a formal reception to welcome Patrick Deane as incoming President. At Convocation the following day, Deane will be formally installed as the incoming University President.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Meeting with Patrick Deane on October 12.

Joe had a 45 minute meeting with the President during which they discussed pension matters and other issues of mutual concern. Joe filled the President in on MURA activities.

6.2 Christmas Lunch Invitations for Special Guests

Eight or nine special guests will be invited to the Christmas luncheon.

6.3 Signing Authority Changes

A motion was tabled that Joe Laposa (President), Beth Csordas (Treasurer-VP), Helen Barton (Past President) and Wayne Rouse (Secretary) be given signing authority for MURA accounts, and that any two of these have signing authority on MURA transactions. Joe, Beth and Helen have already arranged signing at the McMaster Credit Union. Wayne will add his name and give MCU a copy of these minutes**.

Moved by Mary Johnston and seconded by Helen Dietsche. Carried unanimously.

6.4 2010 – 2011 Council Photo

A new photo will be taken prior to the November Council Meeting. Councilors are asked to arrive at 1:15 PM in order to facilitate this.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

No Report

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Pam Penny)

Prices/meal will be the same as last year except for the addition of the HST. The luncheon charge/attendee will be \$12. This cost is based on a maximum of 170 people. Pam will talk to Beth Csordas when Beth gets back about available money for extras such as prizes**.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

No Report

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

The following have passed on since our last report.

David Damas	Anthropology	April 14 2010
Gordon Means	Political Science	August 12 2010
Constantinos Michailidis	Building Operations	August 26 2010
Kenneth Redish	Computer Science & Systems	August 27 2010
George F Lewis	Anatomy	August 29 2010
Beryl Crewes	Office of the Registrar (Admissions)	September 8 2010

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Members as of Oct. 4, 2010 totalled 1980. This compares to a total of 1978 members on Sept. 9.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The next issue will be in January.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

8.9 Special Events

No Report. See Item 4.6.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

Cape Cod trip was very successful. Gerry Middleton created a DVD comprising about 30 pictures that might be suitable for the AGM.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

There have been two recent unsolicited compliments from retirees on the excellence of the web site, to which Marianne is continuously making additions and improvements.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

The B of G had a retreat in early October. Four groups led by the vice-presidents carried out discussion on the themes

- University culture and decision making
- University mission and structure
- Innovation
- Academic vs Nonacademic

Lorraine felt that serious issues were discussed quite openly and that this was an especially successful retreat.

9.2 College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC) (Helen Barton)

No Report

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

Lorraine reported that she and Marianne met with Virginia Askan (MUFA president) and Herb Schellhorn (MUFA remuneration chair) on September 15 to discuss the post-retirement out-of-country \$10,000 travel insurance policy. Neither Virginia nor Herb were aware of the limitations of the policy. Herb committed to pursuing through OCUFA the nature of post retirement policies at other universities. In addition, Virginia and Herb will bring this issue before MUFA's Remuneration Committee.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

A tentative agreement between the University and the custodians (CAW) has just been announced. The voting date will be announced shortly.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff announced that the pension plan took a bit of a hit during the last quarter but was still performing well in comparison to other plans.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

Les' most recent report has just been posted on the 'just-Council' web site. No one had comments on the report at this time. Helen Barton expressed appreciation that Les translates the report into understandable script.

10. Other Business

No other business.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried** at 3:45 PM.

12. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday November 10, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 220.